THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) As per available information the number of civil and criminal cases pending year-wise in the Supreme Court of India and High Courts are as follows:

Supreme Court

	less than 5 years	5-10 years	Over 10 years	
Civil	12436	2513	1528	Actual number of files as on 1.4.1999
Criminal	1083	77	31	

High Courts

	4-5 years	9-10 years	more than 10 years	
Civil	185082	95073	401954	(as during 1998)
Criminal	22371	12156	56889	(as during 1998)

(b) Various steps have been taken by the Government for the speedy disposal of both civil and criminal cases. These include amendment of the Civil Procedure Code and the Code of Criminal Procedure, increase in the number of posts of Judges/Judicial Officers, establishment of Special Courts/ tribunals, improvement in the standards of legal education, appointment of Special Judicial/Metropolitan Magistrates and adoption of alternative modes of dispute resolution, such as, arbitration and conciliation. Lok Adalats have been given a statutory base as supplementary forum for resolution of disputes. Efforts are also being made to secure more funds for setting up of more courts.

Influence of money power in the elections of Members to the Upper House

3322. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Election Commission has recently asked the Central Government to take effective steps so that the elections of the Members to the Upper House of Parliament are not influenced by money power;

(b) if so, whether the excessive use of money power to get membership of the Upper House of Parliament is sabotaging the democratic style of elections in the country; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard and what immediate steps would be taken to curb such activities?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) In the context of several newspaper reports highlighting apprehensions about use of money power in biennial elections to Rajya Sabha, the Election Commission has alerted the Finance Ministry to do its best of prevent use of money power in these elections.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Some corrective steps have been suggested which are under examination by the Government.

Compulsory voting

3323. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make voting compulsory to streamline the system of elections in the coming elections;

(b) what major steps are being taken with regard to the election system; and

(c) by when this would be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Construction of fourlane bypass between Kandla and Khari Rehan

3324. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Kandla Port Trust (KPT) has agreed to a proposal for construction of fourlane bypass road between Kandla and Khari Rehan (K.K. Road);

(b) if so, the salient features of the scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tenders for this project were to be received by N.H.A.I. on 21.12.1999 and tender notice was published in Local Daily Sandesh dated 16.11.1999;